

Men shooting blanks in 1897 could turn to Nervia for help

Each week The Daily Herald takes a look at Utah County's past through the pages of its back issues.

Feb. 16-22

100 years ago

1897 — WORLD NEWS: On Feb. 16, Provo Woolen Mill employees go back to work after striking for several days over wages.

* Feb. 18 — During the night, a large avalanche in Provo Canyon wipes out the farm of William W. Ferguson. Rescuers dig through the snow, in some places as deep as 50 feet, until they find Williams who was crushed to death in his sleep.

* Feb. 19 — More than 350 Sunday school officers attend the social held in the 1st Ward hall.

* At \$5 a bottle, Nervia will quickly and completely restore lost manhood.

75 years ago

1922 — WORLD NEWS: On Feb. 17, the French reject baseball for the 1924 Olympics. On Feb. 21, a 410-foot dirigible explodes over Norfolk, Va., killing 34.

* Feb. 17 — More than 50 Brigham Young University students return from a two-day winter outing in Vivian Park.

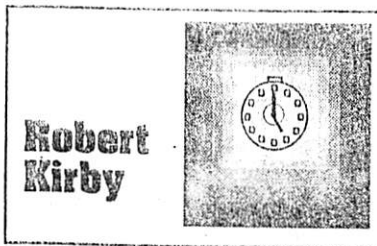
* Feb. 21 — Despite a heavy winter storm, a thousand people attend the Third Annual Railroaders Ball held in Mozart Hall in honor of George Washington.

* Hamburger costs 15 cents per

pound, honey comb 19 cents.

50 years ago

1947 — WORLD NEWS: On Feb. 20, President Truman asks for mandatory military training in the



Flashback

U.S. On Feb. 21, Truman asks Congress for \$350 million in aid to liberated countries in Europe.

* Feb. 16 — Authorities are pondering the identity of the body of a newborn baby boy found yesterday floating in the mill race near the Provo golf course. A medical examination indicates that the baby was born alive but had been dead for about a week.

* Feb. 21 — A 22-year-old Kansas City, Mo., man arrested for car theft hangs himself with his own belt in the Utah County jail.

* Feb. 22 — Geneva Steel officials report that operations have reached near wartime capacity, prompting the seventh open hearth furnace to be brought on line.

* William Elliott and Vera Ral-

ston star in "Plainsman and the Lady" at the Academy.

* Cabbage costs 6 cents a pound, lettuce 10 cents.

25 years ago

1972 — WORLD NEWS: On Feb. 18, the U.S. Supreme Court abolishes the death penalty. On Feb. 21, President Nixon arrives in China for talks with Mao.

* Feb. 16 — An early morning blaze in Heber City destroys two downtown stores and severely damages two others. J.C. Penney's and Christensen's clothing stores gutted in the same location where a similar blaze in 1937 caused \$150,000 in damage.

* Feb. 19 — Geneva Steel calls back 200 workers previously laid off because of an eight-month slowdown in steel orders. An increase in demand brings the no. 1 blast furnace back on line.

* Feb. 21 — A skeleton found in Little Rock Canyon east of Springville is identified as that of a 27-year-old Mapleton man who has been missing for 19 months. Authorities believe the man died of a fall while hiking alone in the rugged cliffs.

* Angela Lansbury stars in "Bednobs & Broomsticks" at the Fox theater.

* Popular music includes "Heart of Gold" by Neil Young, "A Horse With No Name" by America, "In the Rain" by the Dramatics, and "Mother and Child Reunion" by Paul Simon.

Fisher—they built a number of small homes on the property which he rented to men working at the Park Utah Mine.

The Benjamin Norris property was known for an American Flag that he painted on a cliff near his home. The flag can be seen from the highway, and was repainted yearly under the direction of Isabelle Baum who maintained the tradition until her death since then it has been painted by Veterans of Foreign Wars of Heber.

Hailstone's greatest industrial development, apart from its support to the mining industry, came in 1929 when the Great Lakes Timber Company was established by Elmer Peterson, a Denver lumberman, and Michael J. Sweeney, a veteran western timberman. The lumbering operation prospered and in 1933 Mr. Sweeney became general manager and then sole owner in 1946. The company continued with its headquarters at Hailstone until 1960 when it moved to LaPoint in Uintah County. Before it moved from Hailstone the company was one of the largest industrial lumber and timber companies in the country. Recreational developments in forest land had reduced the available cutting timber in the Hailstone area of the Wasatch National Forest, which necessitated the move away from the area.

Schools and a branch of the Church existed for a time in Hailstone. The first school and a small cabin across the road from the William D. Moulton home. George Wootton was the first teacher and taught just one year. The next school was held in a little log cabin near the Cluff home and continued there several years until a larger building was constructed near Keetley to handle all the school children in the area. The Elkhorn Branch of the Church also held its meetings here.

A new, red brick school house was finally built in Keetley and was used by all the families in the area until the Wasatch School Board consolidated schooling in the Heber schools.

Some farming and dairy operations still continue at Hailstone, but motorists driving through the area on a new, widened highway hardly slow down now as they pass through what used to be homes, farms and buildings of a very happy people.

PROVO CANYON

Settlers first coming to Provo Valley traveled through Provo Canyon, and some were intrigued enough by its beauty and potential that they began to settle at spots through the canyon. Several resorts and fun spots some of which were in the Wasatch County area were established.

One of the most colorful canyon characters was a Scotsman, William "Billy" Ferguson. He settled in the canyon about 1863 as operator of toll gates at Spring Dell and Vivian Park. Midway between Provo City and Heber he built a famous roadhouse with surrounding camping spots and fishing areas. He especially enjoyed flowers, pets and fruit trees. His friends called him a "born optimist" for he found happiness in every-

thing, especially his mountain home. Visitors enjoyed looking through his scrapbooks, and the many paintings and pictures he displayed.

Being a true Scotsman, he always celebrated the birthday anniversary of Robert Burns on January 25th of each year. He danced the "Highland Fling" like no one else around, to the delight of all the Scots who came to join with him in these entertainments.

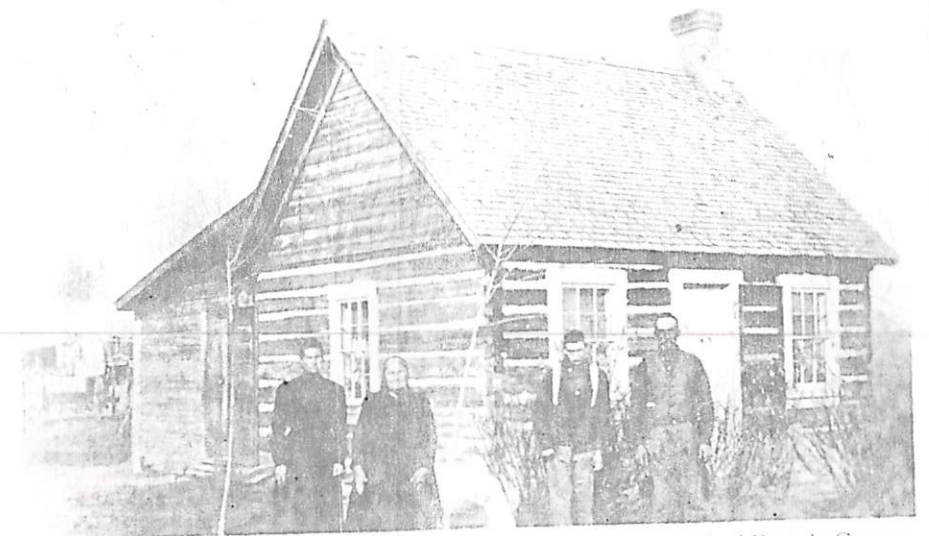
His life had an unfortunate ending as he was buried one wintery night in a huge snowslide that covered completely his home, his pets and all his possessions.

DANIELS CANYON

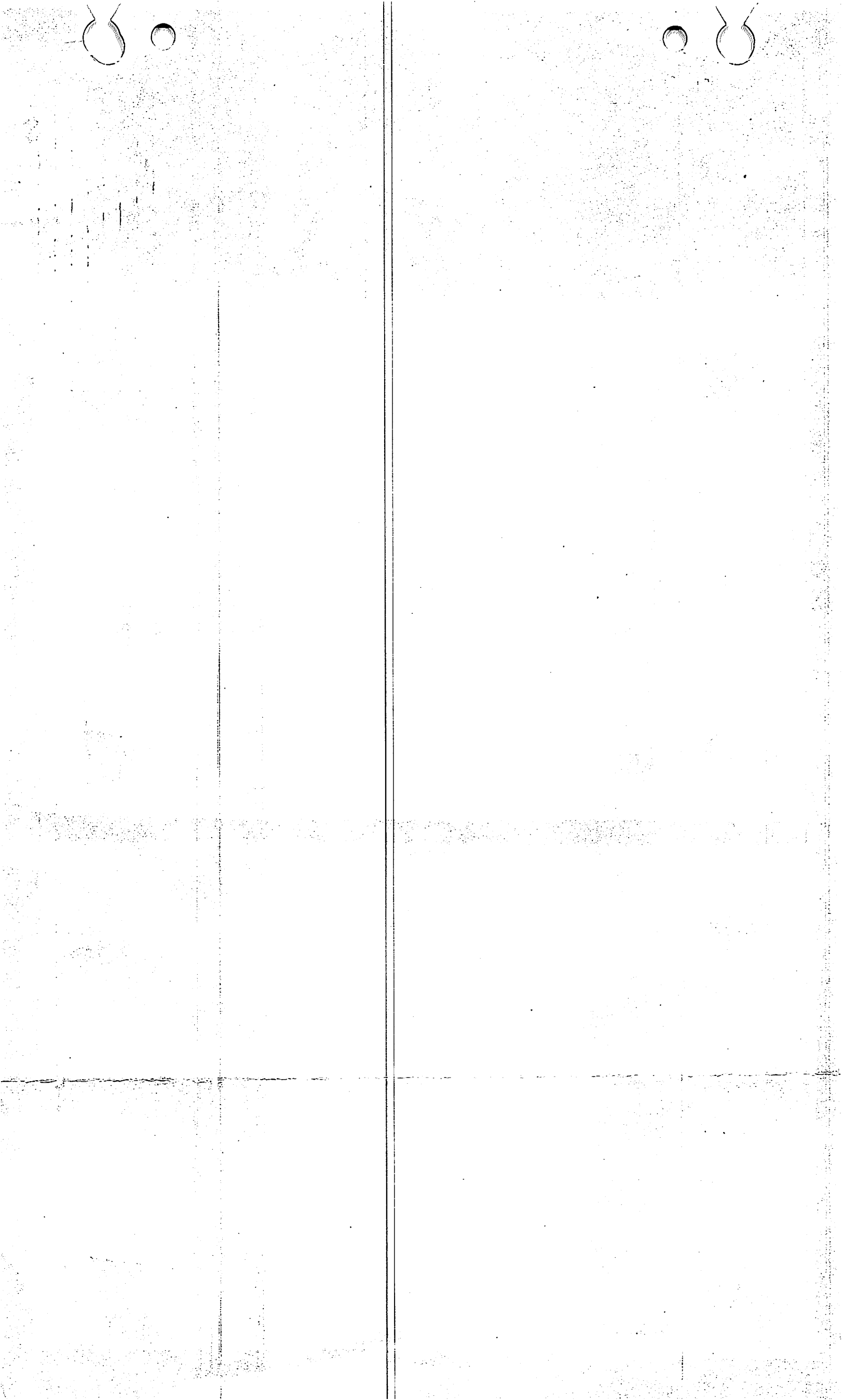
One of the highest and most scenic spots in Wasatch County is Daniels Canyon, which rises to a height of some 8,000 feet. It was first developed by settlers in the valley who sought summer range lands for their livestock. It was also a popular spot from which settlers took timber to build their homes and other buildings.

Through the canyon, which has very narrow, high, rugged sides, runs a stream of crystal clear water. The canyon sides are covered with grass, shrubs, mahogany, scrub oak and maple trees, quaken aspens and many varieties of pine and fir trees along with service berries, elder berries and choke cherries.

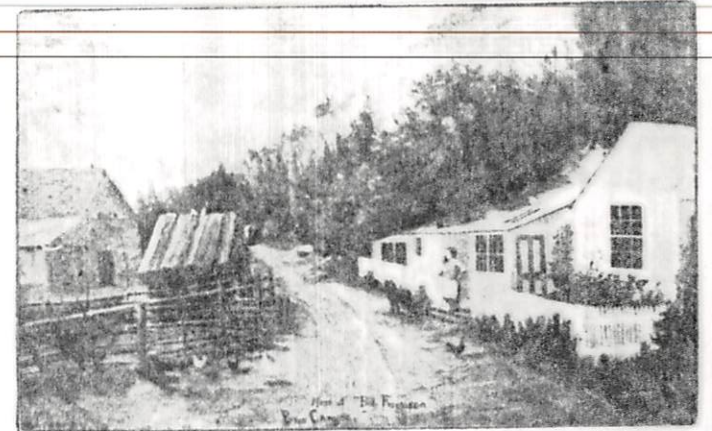
Hyrum Oaks was one of the first settlers of Provo Valley to take up ground at the mouth of Daniels Canyon. Tom Brown, a relative of



The old Hyrum Oaks home built on his homestead farm at the mouth of Daniels Canyon.



Billy
Ferguson
Snowslide



Billy Ferguson house in Provo Canyon. Painting
by Jos. Kerby in late 1800s